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Tribute to Dr. David A. Saugey

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A TRIBUTE TO Dr. DAVID A. SAUGEY



As a new assistant professor at Arkansas State University in August, 1984, I was eager to get to know as many field biologists with my interest (herpetology) in the state as possible. My departmental chair at that time, the late Dr. V. Rick McDaniel, suggested I contact a former graduate student of his, David A. Saugey, who happened to be a recently-hired U.S. Forest Service district biologist stationed out of the Jessieville office in the Ouachita National Forest. From our initial correspondence and informal meeting at my first Arkansas Academy of Science annual meeting in the spring of 1985, it became very clear to me that David was willing to assist me in my herpetological research efforts in Arkansas. Although a bat biologist by training, David also had a keen interest in amphibians and reptiles. For example, he was instrumental in protecting several abandoned mine shafts in the Ouachita Mountains by having their entrances gated and, in doing so, helped conserve these unique habitats for brooding plethodontid salamanders as well as several bat species that utilized those mines.

David became a member of the Arkansas Academy of Science one year ahead of me in 1986. By then, we had begun a professional partnership and friendship that continues to exist today. Since 1990, he and I have co-authored papers and presentations on various aspects of salamander biology.

David has devoted much time and energy toward making the Academy a top-notch state society. Not only has he performed the duties of Newsletter Editor (1995-1998), Managing Editor of the *Journal* (1999-2002), and President of the Academy (2007), but he has also served on many ad-hoc committees and was the host of the Local Committee for the 2000 annual meeting of the Academy held in Hot Springs. For all of these outstanding contributions to the mission and success of the Academy, we gratefully recognize David this year and wish him the best as he enters retirement.

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Figure Legend. Left: David holding a bear cub; Right: David at the gated entrance to Spillway Mine in Garland County, Arkansas.